

Bristol March 9<sup>th</sup> 1845

My dear Mrs Chapman

Though I shall not be able at once to send off a letter, yet I must at least tell you how very much pleasure I have had in the receipt of your kind packet & very interesting letter. I have contributed to your Fair had been at the expense of much time & trouble, we should have felt amply rewarded by the knowledge that the sympathy they conveyed was felt to be encouraging by those engaged in so holy a cause; - but it was quite a pleasure to us to draw for such an object, & I only feel that we purchase at too cheap a rate the satisfaction of being of the least service in the great work. - Nothing but unavoidable necessity will prevent our sending some drawings this year, & I shall be much disappointed if Bristol does not send us at least as usual in the November as it did last. - If I were to attempt to express to you the unutterable horror & detestation which I have of the whole system of slavery, both as regards the perpetrators of it, & the unhappy sufferers, & the sense I have of its utter inconsistency with the natural & revealed laws of God, - I should indeed want words. This is heightened in our minds by tender & sympathizing feelings towards the blacks, which a knowledge of their wrongs has implanted in our hearts from childhood, & which has prevented our learning that feeling of their being a degraded race, which we have observed in most Americans, & which must of course greatly diminish their sympathy. I hope I trust that I should be ready to make any sacrifice really to benefit the cause. The heart would often sink at the contemplation of so much sin & misery, did it not rest assured that the Supreme Ruler of all will bring about His own wise ends in His own good time, & that the hour will come when there will be no distinction of bond and free, & when those despised ones shall stand forth as angels of light in the Kingdom of their Father.

Meanwhile we must all wait the works of Him who sent us into the world while it is day, & yours is truly a great work! May you be so directed and guided in it that it may prosper in your hands! In looking back on the past, at periods when great revolutions were being effected, & when some remarkable men were raised up to lead & influence the public mind, I am struck with observing how often that which was right in them was hindered in the its operation, & how they themselves often unnecessary incurred odium, through some unintentional error, either of judgement or of character. I trust that the Abolitionists will not injure their holy cause by forgetting that they must "speak the truth in love," & that they must strive to acquire the humbleness of the dove and the wisdom of the serpent. To us on the other side of the Atlantic it does indeed seem extraordinary that so many persons of high benevolence & deep piety are unopposed to the Abolitionists, while they profess the strongest desire for the extinction of slavery, & we are tempted to enquire whether it is the wisdom of their course which they doubt, & the severity of their language which they despise, while they deeply sympathize with the object the Abolitionists have in view. Will you, my dear Madam, excuse my writing to you with so much freedom? You encourage me to do so, & will pardon me if my remarks are founded in ignorance. The pamphlets you have kindly sent will be valuable to us, & we shall read them with attention! If taking an oath to support the Constitution implies any tacit consent to a law so unjust as giving a slaveholder votes for his slaves, it is certainly impossible for an Abolitionist to do so conscientiously; here again, it is almost impossible for us

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

at so great a distance to judge, without the full knowledge than we  
can have of the circumstances of the case. — I have presented one  
copy of the Liberty Bell from you to Mrs. Amstrong, the wife of our Minister,  
& another to Mrs. Kunkel, the aunt of W. Martineau, who was very highly  
qualified with it, through the pleasure of receiving the book would do  
both cases have been enhanced had you yourself written in it. The  
third copy I shall send to the Mr. Phipps, who will, I doubt not be  
much pleased to have how acceptable their drawings were. I have  
not yet sent the parcel to my Aunt, Mrs. S. Carpenter, but shall do  
so shortly, & am sure that she will be highly gratified with it.

As you expressed a desire to have contributions to the Liberty Bell,  
I enclose for you a little volume of poetry by my Mother's Sister,  
which is very little known, & which contains two pieces near the end  
which you may deem suitable. — My Brother Russell has lately  
given a lecture on Slavery in his Chapel at Widgeonwater, & I  
tried to persuade him to send into a brief form for your volume  
some of his remarks on the merciful character of the Jewish  
institution of Slavery as contrasted with that now existing, but  
he thinks that that course of argument must be familiar to you,  
& is too modest to put forward his. — If you think it would be  
acceptable, my Mother will send for the next Fall some copies of the  
Legend, & of the Memoirs of my Father.

We are obliged by your kindness in sending us the Anti-Slavery  
Standard, but from not knowing the party politics of the Abolitionists,  
& not having much time for reading, we do not make as much use  
of it as to make it worth your having the trouble to send it; I would  
therefore decline it with many thanks. — Mr. James takes in some

papers, which we have an opportunity of seeing. - Thank you for  
your promise not again to make me appear in the paper; with  
this I should hardly have ventured to write to you again, for our  
English ladies, not having been obliged to come forward as has our  
American friends have been forced almost to do, feel a great shrinking  
from any thing of the kind.

Farewell, my dear Friend; - with our best wishes for  
the success of your cause, believe me ever to remain,

very truly yours,

Mary Carpenter.

1845-

Mary Carpenter

Ms. A. 9. 2. 21. 15